

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's, land's Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1866

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CHINA MAY APPOINT PEACE COMMISSION.

Washington, Sept. 5.—Within the last 25 hours the United States government has received from its representatives at foreign capitals much material information in regard to the attitude of the powers on the Russian proposal to evacuate Peking. These give the general nature of the responses made to Russia by certain of the powers. It is stated authoritatively that if there was at any time a prospect of a serious international crisis this has been very largely if not entirely removed by the harmonious character of the communications the several governments are making. The exact nature of the responses is not made public by the state department, for there are yet some replies to be transmitted, and until all of them are in the negotiations are considered in such an incomplete form that they will not be made public. It is said, however, that the answers go much beyond the tentative character of those heretofore referred to, and are of a conclusive nature, so far as showing the purposes of the governments, although they may not be regarded as conclusive in accepting or rejecting the particular proposition advanced by Russia. The responses are understood to be rather long and somewhat argumentative, similar in this respect to the American responses. This very fact is a cause for congratulation among officials, as they point out that there is no disposition to treat the proposal with terseness or in any manner to give offense, but rather to bring the powers together on a common basis. On the whole, the general tendency of the responses is to give entire satisfaction here as to the course of the negotiations.

The satisfactory progress of the negotiations along these lines has directed attention to the personality of the envoys, who will likely represent the powers and China in the final settlement. Mr. Conger is regarded as eminently fitted for such a task on the part of the United States, supposing that each of the powers interested in the Chinese problem is to have a separate and individual representative. Mr. Rockhill's name is mentioned as an alternate in case Mr. Conger does not care to remain in Peking, or to participate in the settlement.

If the present state of affairs in China is protracted until the arrival there of Field Marshal Count Waldersee, which should occur in about ten days or a fortnight, it is not to be doubted that the government of Germany will endeavor to have all the negotiations with the Chinese government conducted through that official as a representative, not of Germany alone, but of all the powers urging the advisability of combined action through one agency as the best means of securing a speedy and generally satisfactory termination of the Chinese trouble.

If there is any change in the military situation since Gen. Chaffee's dispatch, supposed to be of the 13th ultimo, no word of it has reached Washington. It is understood that disturbance and outrages upon missionaries continue in some of the districts outside of Peking. It is believed here—possibly because of these reports—that the foreign ministers in Peking probably will enter an earnest objection to any withdrawal of troops if their respective governments delay action upon the Russian proposal until they have had a chance to express their views.

The German foreign office appears to be actively furthering the negotiations for a settlement. Persons likely to have a correct understanding of Germany's attitude look for the suggestion of a compromise of middle course which will be neither an acceptance nor a rejection of the Russian proposal, but will be such a satisfactory middle ground that all the powers, including Russia, can agree to it. For instance, it is suggested that Germany with propriety might suggest that a certain limit be fixed to the extent of the military detachment to be left at Peking, with an understanding that each small detachment confine itself to quarters so long as peace and quiet prevailed in Peking, but be ready to act in case

of further Chinese depredations. In another diplomatic quarter strong belief is expressed that the requisite compromise will be found by China's re-establishing and naming peace commissioners. Official information have been reached Washington that steps are now being taken by China towards the appointment of such a peace commission. In that event it is believed by diplomatic officials that the entire status of the negotiations between the powers might be changed and that Russia no longer would feel impelled to insist upon the withdrawal of her minister and troops from Peking, as all these matters would be subject for the commission itself to deal with. It is pointed out also that in six days since the Russian and American notes were given to the world the sentiment has been growing steadily in favor of continuing the presence of troops at Peking.

Meanwhile the policy of the United States has been such as to leave us entire freedom in our future action, save and except that we are committed to withdraw our troops from Peking if Russia first withdraws hers.

EARL LI'S DIPLOMACY.

London, Sept. 5.—The Chinese minister here, Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng Lub, admits the correctness, in a general sense, of the cable message sent to him, according to Shanghai advices, by Li Hung Chang in which the latter is quoted as saying:

"Our St. Petersburg minister has persuaded Russia to leave Peking. You are useless if you cannot persuade England."

The Chinese minister here also says he has sent a powerful memorial to Lord Salisbury urging him to adhere to the Russian proposal to withdraw the allied forces from Peking, as he, Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng Lub, believes it will pave the way to a speedy settlement. The minister also said the Chinese people were sick of the war, that the genuineness of Li Hung Chang's plenipotentiary powers was undoubted and that Li Hung Chang was working in full sympathy with the emperor, dowager empress and privy council, all of whom favored peace.

The minister added that he himself was still in communication with the Chinese government, whose authority remained entire and who were merely temporarily residing in the province of Shan Si.

PARADED THROUGH FORBIDDEN CITY.

London, Sept. 6.—Gen. Sir Alfred Gaselee, commander of the British Indian troops at the Chinese capital, writes as follows from Peking, Aug. 29, to Lord George Hamilton, secretary of state for India:

"The allies marched through the Forbidden City yesterday (Aug. 28). The British had third place in the procession, the Russians and Japanese being in greater strength."

FEARS FOR MISSIONARIES.

New York, Sept. 5.—The Protestant Episcopal Missionary society has received a cable dispatch from Bishop Frederick R. Graves, the bishop of Shanghai and the lower Yang Tse valley, in which he expressed some fear for the missionary interests if the foreign troops should be withdrawn, and also expresses decided distrust of Li Hung Chang.

EXTERMINATING THE BOXERS.

Taku, Sept. 3.—It is reliably asserted that native soldiery, acting under the orders of Li Hung Chang, are exterminating the Boxers in the provinces of Hu Nan and Chi Li.

Four prominent Boxers were executed in Tien Tsin today. The French shot two and the Japanese beheaded the others.

The executions have had a good moral effect.

Getting on Hoyt's Blind Side.

The Abbeville Medium shows its "friendship" for Col. Hoyt as follows:

We have not said an unkind or disrespectful word about Col. Hoyt because of our long friendship for him. After his life record as a temperance man it would be an injustice to him to put him at the head of the whiskey business of the State. There is something incongruous about the idea. A true friend of Col. Hoyt will not force him to go into the whiskey business at this late date.

Col. Hoyt has passed his three score years and has always borne testimony against whiskey and it would certainly be a great outrage on him to make him head man of the "State barroom" as his friends call it.

President J. C. Wilborn, of the Cotton Growers' Association, has adopted the suggestion of the president of the Wheat Growers' Association that the two associations should meet in Greenwood at the same time, and has issued a call to that effect. The wheat growers in South Carolina are enthusiastic over the result of their work the past year.

Powers are Divided as to Leaving Peking

Washington, Sept. 6.—The latest expression as to the attitude of the powers on the evacuation of Peking comes from the United States ambassador at Paris, Gen. Horace Porter, who has advised the authorities here that the attitude of the French government is favorable to the position taken by Russia. Almost simultaneously with this dispatch from Gen. Porter came another from the American chargé d'affaires at Berlin, giving the attitude of Germany on Russian proposal. This in substance states that Germany, while anxious to avoid friction between the powers, regards the conditions at Peking such as to require the continued presence of German forces there. Neither Gen. Porter or Mr. Jackson gave the text of the answers.

These two highly important communications bring the Chinese negotiations to a very advanced stage, though they are not yet concluded as all the answers are not yet in. The German and French answers, however, clearly indicate alignment of the powers. It is generally accepted that Germany's attitude in favor of remaining at Peking will be concurred in by Italy and Austria. Definite word has been received here that Austria favors remaining at Peking.

The position of Japan is likewise lacking in definiteness, although it is believed in the best posted quarters that if other nations remain at Peking Japan will deem it expedient to remain there also. It would seem from this that France is the only government to give concurrence to the Russian proposition although the United States has expressed a purpose of following Russia's course unless the other powers brought about a modification of Russia's position. Thus far Russia has not expressed any purpose of modifying her original position. It was stated authoritatively today that Russia has not ordered the departure of her minister or troops from Peking up to this time, so far as the United States government is advised. It is stated also that no proposition has been presented, but that the question is practically the same as when first presented, namely, as to whether the troops will remain or be withdrawn from Peking.

The receipts of the communications from Berlin and Paris brought about numerous conferences between the president, Secretary Root and Acting Secretary of State Hill and also between Mr. Hill and Mr. Adee. It was gathered from these meetings that another note was being prepared by the United States, but the authorities did not feel disposed to give an inkling as to its nature, and it is quite probable that its final form will await the consideration of the cabinet meeting tomorrow.

The military situation remains unchanged at Peking. Gen. Chaffee's messages make it clear that he for one is proceeding upon the understanding that the American troops will winter in China. The American contingent in the parade through the imperial palace was small, probably in conformity with an arrangement between the various commanders in Peking that the force selected to make the demonstration should be limited in numbers in order that this might reduce the chance of looting. It is supposed here that it was also made to impress the Chinese people as a whole and not from any present military necessity. Some action of this kind appears to have been necessary in order to offset the stories which were afloat in the southern Chinese ports to the effect that the allies had been completely overthrown by the imperial troops and the Boxers, which stories were calculated to cause further uprisings. Besides the demonstration at the palace may reduce the ill effects of any withdrawals of troops from Peking as a result of the present negotiations.

KEEN SATISFACTION

London, Sept. 7, 3.30 a. m.—Germany's polite refusal to withdraw from Peking is commented upon with keen satisfaction in London; and the hope is expressed that Lord Salisbury will show similar firmness. The British reply has not yet been formulated. Lord Salisbury desires to consult his colleagues and has notified the foreign office of his intention to return to London from the continent early next week. There is little doubt, however, that Germany's reply is the outcome of the discussion carried on during the last few days between the European cabinets, and that the compromise policy of maintaining the occupation of the capital, but withdrawing the greater part of the troops to Tien Tsin will be found to have met general concurrence.

From Shanghai it reported that Japan has notified the powers of her

willingness to withdraw her troops provided an adequate guard is left for the legations and on condition that China formally requests evacuation and opens genuine negotiations for peace. Altogether appearances are more hopeful, and it is likely that when Field Marshal Count von Waldersee arrives a fortnight hence at Taku he will find the allies agreed upon some common policy.

Chang Chu Tung, Wu Tang vice-roy, has telegraphed an urgent appeal to the British consul in Shanghai urging Great Britain to institute peace negotiation. It is reported that 2,000 Boxers have been killed and wounded in conflicts with the troops of Gen. Yuan Shi Kai, military governor of Shan Tung.

Is the United States Planning New Move?

Washington, Sept. 7.—Minister Wu arrived in Washington from Cape May late this afternoon and proceeded directly to the state department. It is understood that he had received an intimation that the department officials were desirous of conferring with him. For nearly an hour the minister was closeted behind locked doors with Acting Secretary Hill and Assistant Secretary Adee. None of the parties to the conference was communicative as to the conference, but at its conclusion, Dr. Hill repaired to the White House with a portfolio well filled with papers.

For several hours preceding the minister's visit Acting Secretary Hill and Assistant Secretary Adee had been engaged in short conferences and it was gathered that the negotiations relative to China were approaching another phase and that another pronouncement of some kind was in preparation. When the United States made its response to the Russian note on the 30th ult., the officials here expressed the belief that about a week's time would be required to determine the next step and at the end of that time it would be definitely known whether or not the troops are to be withdrawn from Peking. That period of time has now elapsed. The reports from the European chancelleries indicate that, officially at least, this important subject is being treated with the greatest deliberation and at least another week, and probably even more time, may be consumed in framing the last of the answers to the Russian note.

Meanwhile our government has pretty well satisfied itself as to the attitude towards this last proposition of each and all of the powers interested in the Chinese problem. It may be that this knowledge is regarded as sufficient upon which to base another forward and, perhaps in this case, an independent movement by the United States towards the ultimate withdrawal of the troops and the settlement with China which the government has had in mind since the beginning of the trouble.

The consultations with Mr. Wu are believed to have been inspired by a desire to learn something of the personality of Chinese notables whose names have been suggested as proper to constitute the Chinese side of any commission which may be named to arrange a settlement of the difficulties. Mr. Wu is an ardent adherent of Earl Li.

There was a dearth of official information from China today. Gen. Chaffee got through a dispatch dated Sept. 1 at Peking, indicating that couriers are still employed to close the gap in the line of communication between Tien Tsin and Peking. This dispatch made no mention of the military situation and it was inferred that affairs in Peking remain quiet. The dispatch warmly commended Col. Aaron S. Daggett for gallantry in China and urged that he be made a brigadier general before his retirement nine years hence.

WORKING FOR A COMPROMISE.

Paris, Sept. 7.—Active negotiations are in progress looking to some compromise arrangement with Russia regarding the position she has assumed towards Peking. The communications exchanged between the powers now have better promise of success. The compromise suggested, it is asserted here, is the withdrawal of the forces of all the powers in Peking, leaving the international guard to protect the legations, which it is further asserted in Paris will be allowed to remain at the Chinese capital pending a peace settlement. The main body of troops, it is also said, will retire to the neighborhood of Tien Tsin, leaving sufficient forces along the road to keep clear the railroad route between Peking and Tien Tsin. Russia's attitude is interpreted here as meaning that she will withdraw her troops outside the walls at Peking but not necessarily a great distance from that city.

Red Hot From the Gun

Was the ball that hit G. B. Steadman, of Newark, N. J., in the Civil War. It caused horrible ulcers that no treatment helped for 20 years. Then Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured him. Cures Cuts, Bruises, Burns, Boils, Felons, Corns, Skin Eruptions. Best Pile cure on earth. 25 cts. a box. Cure guaranteed. Sold by J. F. W. DeLorme, Druggist.

Favor the Burning of Peking

American Woman Subjected to the Most Horrible Usage Before Being Tortured to Death.

Shanghai, Sept. 4.—Dispatches announcing that the American government refuses to agree to the withdrawal of the troops from Peking before satisfaction for the outrages upon and the losses of its subjects is given, have been received here and are applauded by the entire foreign colony in Shanghai. Any other policy, according to the business men and missionaries with whom the Associated Press representative has talked, would be a vital blow to the prestige of the foreigners and would weaken their status in China. The English papers fiercely denounce the proposal to evacuation as defeat. The masses of Chinamen now believe that the Chinese arms are victorious.

The Chinese papers printed in Shanghai contain long circumstantial accounts of alleged Chinese victories at Peking, Tien Tsin and Lung Chou, and the shops in the native quarter display for sale lurid pictures of the celestial army driving the Europeans soldiers into the sea at Taku and cutting them to pieces at Tien Tsin. They also show pictures of the foreign admirals being tortured in the presence of the viceroys. The people accept these reports as correctly representing the situation and consider the reports of the English press as "merely foreign lies."

The European community continues to demand the destruction of Peking and the exemplary punishment of the officials deeming indemnity and paper promises of new treaties in adequate. Undoubtedly the information in detail of massacres of foreigners daily received inflames this sentiment. The empress dowager is living in the Yamen at Tai Yuan Fu, in Shan Si province. Fifty missionaries have been slaughtered in that Yamen under her orders and practically in the presence of the viceroys. Three were beheaded in the inner court and the others were killed barbarously in the outer court yard. Their bodies were thrown to the dogs.

The empress has ordered a commissioner to investigate the conduct of the southern viceroys who made a compact with the foreign consuls and their degradation is expected.

The Associated Press representative learns from official sources the facts of the killing of several American woman missionaries. At the request of the mission board the details were withheld out of regard for the feelings of the relatives of the murdered women, but other prominent Americans who have long antagonized the policy of sending women to isolated inland posts, think it important that the facts should be known. The names of the victims are withheld by request. Two of these women were captured while attempting to leave the stations where they were located, were led about the country naked, repeatedly outraged and finally killed by a method too revolting to be described. Two other American women were coming to the coast with a party which a number of Chinamen followed and stoned. The women fell exhausted and were taken by the Chinamen into the presence of the local officials.

They were prostrated upon the execution block and a feint was made of beheading them. One of them became hysterical and laughed, and, thinking her insane, the Chinese escorted her to the coast because of their superstition regarding the insane. On the journey, however, the woman was repeatedly criminally assaulted by her escort. The other woman, after being exhibited naked for some days and suffering assault by several men, was tortured to death by the same shameful methods as were practiced in the other case. Two Swedish missionary women arrived at Shanghai after similar experience except that their lives were spared.

The foregoing are matters of official record.

The 14 English missionaries, including six women and four children, who were murdered at Chin Chau, in the province of Che Kiang, according to the story of a Spanish priest who escaped were killed with bayonets and ancient spears by the magistrate's bodyguard and their naked bodies were hanged from trees.

These incidents make a lenient policy unpopular in Shanghai where all the victims had friends.

Picards appeared today in all public places exhorting foreigners to oppose a compromise with the government and attacking Li Hung Chang.

Reports received here from the treaty ports show that the opposition to the allied forces evacuating Peking before a final settlement with the Chinese is arrived at is universal and intense among the foreigners. The

commercial and missionary bodies are cabling protests to their governments. The diplomatic and military officers, except the Russians, share this feeling.

Li Hung Chang, since his understanding with Russia, has changed front towards the representatives of the other powers and has been insolent and almost insulting in his interviews with them.

Li Hung Chang has recommended the dowager empress to appoint the two southern viceroys who made the agreement with the consuls to keep order in their territories, the president of the tung li yamen and himself as a commission to treat with the powers. Li starts for Tien Tsin in a week on a Chinese ship conveyed by a Japanese warship.

Mr. W. W. Rockhill, the United States special commissioner, starts for Peking Thursday.

LI ASKS FOR ESCORT.

London, Sept. 7.—A special dispatch from Shanghai says Li Hung Chang has made a request for an American escort to accompany him on his journey to Peking and that United States Consul Goodnow is considering his request.

Now that a proposal more in conformity with the original American recommendation has apparently met with the approbation of at least a majority of the powers, the British foreign office has allowed it to become definitely known that the British government is of the opinion that it is advisable for the allied forces to remain at Peking until satisfactory arrangements for peace, etc., are concluded with the Chinese government.

London, Sept. 7.—The London chamber of commerce has received a telegram from the Hongkong chamber of commerce with a request that it be communicated to the British foreign office, advocating a continuance of the occupation of Peking until a proper government has been established and the guilty officials have been punished, and pointing out that an earlier withdrawal would be disastrous to foreign prestige in China.

Disastrous to Missions.

New York, Sept. 4.—The Rev. Dr. Dodd, one of the secretaries for the Methodist Episcopal Missionary society, received the following cablegram from Shanghai today, signed "Central China":

"Protest government against evacuation of Peking and recognition of Li Hung Chang. Both disastrous to missions."

Robert E. Speer of the Presbyterian board of foreign missions received a number of letters from Presbyterian missionaries to China today. One from Samuel Cochran, dated Arima, Japan, Aug. 8, gives an account of the decapitation of nine missionaries near Hang Chow.

Policemen Electrocuted.

St. Louis, Sept. 4.—Two policemen have been killed by electric shocks sustained while they were using the police telephone and 11 other officers injured in the same manner.

The men had gone to patrol boxes on their beats to call up headquarters. When they touched the receivers they were knocked a distance of 10 feet, falling limp to the ground. Both died half an hour after being conveyed to the hospital.

The other 11 patrolmen had their hands burned and suffered from shock but none was seriously injured.

The crossing of an electric light wire with the telephone circuit caused the catastrophe.

Charleston's Population.

Washington, Sept. 4.—The population of the city of Charleston, S. C., as officially announced today is 55,807. In 1890 the population was 54,955.

These figures show, for the city as a whole, an increase of 852 or 1.55 per cent from 1890 to 1900.

The population in 1880 was 49,984, showing an increase of 4,971 or 9.85 per cent from 1880 to 1890.

The bureau announces the population of Hartford, Conn., as 79,830, a gain of 26,820, or 50.10 per cent; Fort Wayne, 45,115, a gain of 9,722 or 20.47 per cent.

The population of Richmond, Va., is 85,050, a gain of 3,662 or 4.3 per cent.

Big Gift to Negro College.

Atlanta, Sept. 4.—John D. Rockefeller has made Spelman Seminary, a negro college of this city, a present of \$180,000. The money has been put into the treasury of the American Baptist Home Mission society of New York, which institution has charge of the college. A new dormitory, a new dining hall, magnificent in all its appointments, a residence for the faculty, a hospital and a heating and light plant will be built.